

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10—P. M.

This fact that gold is a very scarce commodity in this city was demonstrated in a very striking manner to-day by the transactions of the gold market. A prominent firm, basing their action upon the expected large payments of gold interest from the Treasury during the period to the 1st of May, went "short" of it, as the expression in Wall street is, and sold quite extensively. A rival house who were "long" of gold, or supposed to be so, at figures one or two per cent higher than the market has rallied for a few days past, organized a clique in opposition to this "bear" movement, and made a decided rally upon cash gold, which they have been looking up to further their scheme. Their efforts in pursuance of this object led to a rather curious complication of affairs to-day. After the usual clearances of the Gold Bank they were entitled to about \$1,300,000 in gold, for which they received certified checks of the Bank of New York. On presenting these one million was paid, but the bank refused to pay the remainder, alleging that it did not have the cash. The checks were about to go to protest, when some settlement was arranged, but the terms are differently stated. Some assert that the bank had the gold in double eagles, which it did not wish to part with, as they command a small premium as compared with other pieces. Others say that when the notary appeared at the bank to formally protest the checks payment was made, the bank in the interval having called in its loans of specie. Still another report is to the effect that the holders of the checks were induced to lend the bank the deficit. As some feeling was manifested toward the Gold Exchange Bank its president, Mr. Benson, appeared in the Gold Room and made a speech to the members, declaring that his institution had not shown favoritism to any of its customers, and that its transactions had been perfectly regular. The secret of the difficulty lies in the fact that the holders of the checks upon the Bank of New York presented them to the Gold Exchange Bank of waiting until the following business morning, which in this case would have been Monday. The whole affair is a very illustrative of the evils attendant upon gold speculation. In this instance it brought two great rival interests in antagonism, to the injury and loss of merchants and others having a legitimate interest in the gold market. The scarcity of gold made by this withdrawal for speculative purposes caused a demand which was satisfied at an extortionate lending rate. The needs of borrowers compelled them to pay all the intervening fractions from 3-32 to 1-2 of one per cent per day for the use of gold during the two days to Monday at half-past twelve o'clock. In the excitement attendant upon the discovery that the Bank of New York had refused to meet its gold checks the price was suddenly run up to 133 1/2, the highest it has attained since the middle of February. The "bull" movement which caused this advance, however, was not the result of the anxiety to sell before the expected disbursement of the Treasury gold causes a decline. The proposition to anticipate the May interest has not worked very satisfactorily, so far as eating the market is concerned, the total coupons cashed thus far amounting to about \$350,000, the rebate on which did not exceed \$1,500. The range in the price to day was as follows:—

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